How to Install DirectAdmin on a VPS — The Complete Step-by-Step Guide 2026

VPS control panels · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/install-directadmin-vps/

In short DirectAdmin is a professional, lightweight, fast and stable control panel that manages web, mail, DNS and databases with three levels (admin/reseller/user). It installs with a single command on a clean VPS and opens on port 2222. DirectAdmin is commercial with an affordable license; the license is on the customer.

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DirectAdmin is a professional control panel known for being **light, fast and stable** with low resource use, making it ideal for VPS servers. It manages websites, email, DNS and databases with three levels (admin, reseller and user), and supports several web servers including Apache, nginx and LiteSpeed. In this guide from the Hyyat Host team we walk through installing DirectAdmin step by step, with the requirements, licensing, first login, key settings, and fixes for the most common issues.

This guide applies to a VPS. If you don't have one yet, Hyyat Host virtual servers are ready for you: fast NVMe storage, full root control, and Arabic technical support that walks with you step by step from order to first login.

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Licensing note: DirectAdmin is a **commercial, paid** panel with an affordable license (a low-cost personal option is available). The license is on the customer; the Hyyat Host team helps you install and set it up.

What is DirectAdmin and why choose it?

DirectAdmin is a **light, professional** panel favored by many hosting providers for its stability and low resource use. Its key strengths:

- **Light and fast:** one of the lowest-memory panels, runs smoothly on a small VPS.
- **Three levels:** admin, reseller and user — ideal for reselling hosting.
- **Flexible web server:** supports Apache, nginx and LiteSpeed/OpenLiteSpeed via CustomBuild.
- **All-in-one:** mail, DNS, databases and free Let's Encrypt SSL certificates.
- **Stable:** a strong reputation for reliability and few failures.

Requirements before installing

Before you start, make sure your server meets the minimum requirements — DirectAdmin is light on resources:

Requirement	Minimum	Recommended
Operating system	AlmaLinux/Rocky or Debian/Ubuntu	AlmaLinux 9 or Ubuntu 22.04
RAM	1 GB	2 GB or more
Storage	10 GB free	20 GB or more
CPU	Single core	Two cores or more
Access	root user	—

Very important: install DirectAdmin only on a clean, fresh system with no other control panel or pre-installed web server. Every Hyyat Host VPS plan lets you reinstall the OS in one click before you begin.

Steps to install DirectAdmin on a VPS

Step 1 — Connect to the server via SSH

Use the username and password or SSH key we provided (replace the server address with yours):

```
ssh root@your-server-ip
```

Step 2 — Update the system

```
apt update && apt upgrade -y
```

Step 3 — Download the official install script

```
wget https://download.directadmin.com/setup.sh
```

Step 4 — Run the installer

```
chmod 755 setup.sh && ./setup.sh
```

The installer asks for your **license details** (or license key). Enter them to begin; the key can also be passed with the command for an automated install. If you bought the license through Hyyat Host we provide its details.

Step 5 — Wait and save your credentials

The install usually takes **15 to 25 minutes** (it builds components from source). At the end it shows the **admin login details** and the panel link on port 2222 — copy and save them.

Logging into DirectAdmin for the first time

Open the following address in your browser (use your server address):

```
https://your-server-ip:2222
```

A certificate warning may appear on first login — continue safely. Then sign in as `admin` with the password shown after install, or the one Hyyat Host gave you if you asked us to install it.

The four most important settings right after install

1. **Create your first site/user** From the admin panel create a package and a user, then add the domain.
2. **Issue a free SSL certificate** From `SSL Certificates` via Let's Encrypt to secure your site with https.
3. **Set the web server via CustomBuild** Choose Apache, nginx or LiteSpeed as you need.
4. **Enable backups** From `Admin Backup/Transfer` and schedule periodic backups.

Common issues and how to fix them

- **Panel won't open on port 2222:** make sure the firewall allows port 2222 and the install finished. At Hyyat Host the VPS firewall allows the essential ports by default.
- **Install fails or takes long:** DirectAdmin builds from source — make sure the system is clean and supported with enough memory and a stable internet connection.
- **License problem:** make sure the key matches the IP address and server type, or open a ticket and we'll help.
- **Forgot the admin password:** reset it via `passwd admin` or the DirectAdmin tools, or open a ticket.

DirectAdmin's main features in detail

DirectAdmin's strength is being **light, stable and flexible**: a full professional panel on few resources that lets you choose your web server and suits reselling.

- **Three management levels:** admin, reseller and user for precise permission control.
- **CustomBuild:** full control over server components and their versions.
- **Integrated mail and DNS:** Exim, Dovecot and BIND built in.
- **Multiple PHP versions:** the right version per site.
- **Free SSL certificates:** Let's Encrypt in one click.
- **Backup and transfer:** strong tools to back up and move accounts between servers.

Securing DirectAdmin after install

The panel manages your whole server, so its security is a priority. Right after install, do the following:

1. **Enable two-factor authentication** For the admin account — basic protection for the panel.
2. **Enable the firewall and BruteForce Monitor** To block repeated login attempts.
3. **Restrict access to port 2222** To your own IP address where possible.
4. **Update the panel and components regularly** Via CustomBuild to patch vulnerabilities.

What do you manage daily from the panel?

After install, every task is handled from one graphical interface without commands:

- Creating sites, domains, users and packages.
- Issuing free SSL certificates and renewing them automatically.
- Creating email accounts and mailboxes, and managing DNS.
- Managing MySQL databases and users.
- Reseller accounts and hosting resale.
- Backups and transfers, and resource monitoring.

When should you choose DirectAdmin?

DirectAdmin is an excellent choice if you want a **light, stable professional** panel on few resources with an affordable license, especially for reselling hosting or running several sites efficiently. If you want a free alternative, choose **HestiaCP**; and if you want the most commercially popular interface with stronger WordPress tools, you may prefer **Plesk**.

Next step

- Activate the license and create your first user and site.
- Issue a free SSL certificate to secure your site.
- Enable recurring backups from the start.

And if you'd like us to handle installation, licensing and management for you, open a support ticket — we reply within 24 hours at most.

Frequently asked questions

Is DirectAdmin free?

No, DirectAdmin is commercial with an affordable license (a low-cost personal option is available). The license is on the customer.

What is DirectAdmin's default port?

Port 2222 over https, with the username admin.

Is DirectAdmin good for WordPress?

Yes, it runs WordPress efficiently and supports LiteSpeed for higher performance via CustomBuild.

Which systems does DirectAdmin run on?

It supports AlmaLinux, Rocky, Debian and Ubuntu (and Enterprise Linux systems).

Does it include mail and DNS?

Yes, DirectAdmin is all-in-one with mail (Exim/Dovecot), DNS (BIND) and databases.

Can Hyyat Host install it for me?

Yes, through Hyyat Host VPS management plans; we help with installation, licensing and setup.

Need this service from Hyyat Host?Our team handles it for you, with support replying to tickets within 24 hours at most.

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